GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1042
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
RURAL KNOWLEDGE CENTRES
Bose Shri Subrata

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the proposed Rural Knowledge Centre as recommended by the National Commission on Farmers;

(b) the details of modern information and communication technology likely to be used and how the farmers are going to access it;

(c) the details of alliance of Mission 2007; and

(d) the role of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation in achieving this target?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): The proposed Rural/Village Knowledge Centres as recommended by the National Commission on Farmers are designed to provide access to key local information on entitlements, governance and infrastructure, while supporting access to dynamic information on weather, markets and online public services. The centres are also to serve as a retail outlay for a host of online learning, skill building and training, as well as for providing information on employment opportunities, and will link to new and emerging extension services.

(b): The Rural/Village Knowledge Centres are likely to be equipped with necessary computer hardware, software, internet connectivity and other infrastructure, to provide the intended ICT based services to the farmers. These knowledge centres can be located either in Panchayat buildings or rural schools or Study Centres of Open Universities, to facilitate easy access to all sections of the society and may be run by trained members of the self help groups of the farmers etc.

(c): The National alliance of Mission 2007 is comprising of nearly 80 organizations, including civil society organizations, international development agencies, corporates from the IT sector, Government Departments, academic institutions etc. which are playing an active role in the development sector.

(d): The Union Finance Minister has, in his Budget Speech this year, announced to allow NABARD to provide Rs.100.00 Crore out of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for this purpose.